

symmetry, and wherein the electrodes are formed in such a manner that the gas discharge forms exclusively in the volume, determined by an alignment of the openings; and where the plasma channel, generated on the axis of symmetry, is the source for at least one of the extreme ultraviolet and x-rays; and

means for increasing conversion efficiency.

2. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the openings on the side facing away from the space is larger than on the side facing the space.

3. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the openings exhibit the shape of a truncated cone.

4. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anode opening is designed as a non-continuous depression, and in particular as a blind hole.

5. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an auxiliary electrode is provided.

6. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein an auxiliary electrode is provided behind the opening of one of the main electrodes.

7. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said means for increasing conversion energy includes an auxiliary electrode, which exhibits an opening on the axis of symmetry, provided between the main electrodes.

8. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said main electrodes has a plurality of openings.

9. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the openings in the main electrodes are arranged on a circle, through whose center runs the axis of symmetry.

10. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said main electrodes has a ring-shaped opening, whereby the center of the ring lies on the axis of symmetry.

11. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pulse-forming network is provided as a power supply.

12. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the gas inlet and outlet opening for the working gas in the electrode space, there is at least one additional gas inlet or gas outlet opening.

13. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a system of capillaries, for vacuum separation, provided between the gas-filled space and highly evacuated areas of the device.

14. (AMENDED) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the system of capillaries is a micro channel plate or a Kumakhov lens.

(A copy of the marked-up version of amended claims 1-14 is attached to this Preliminary Amendment).

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the new Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate page for the original Abstract presently in the application.

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the specification, claims and abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies/These claims patentably define over the art of record.